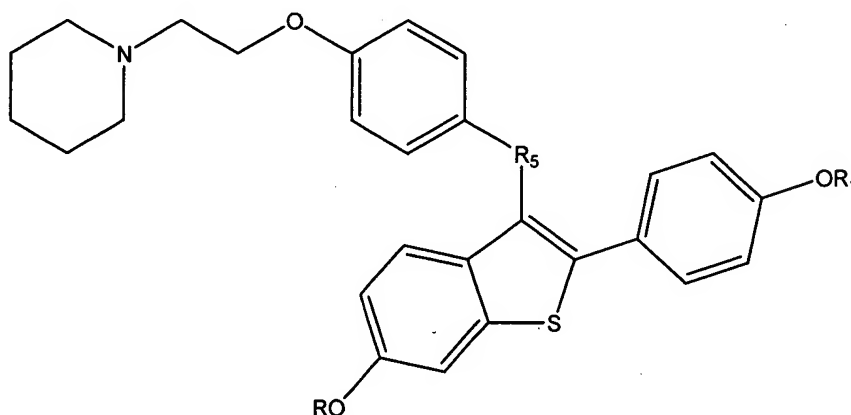


ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is a method for treating and preventing prostate cancer, and particularly androgen-independent prostate cancer, the method including administering to a mammal a benzothiophene having the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or prodrugs thereof, wherein R and R₁ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR₂, —COR₃, and R₄; R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl; R₃ is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl; R₄ is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl; and R₅ is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and —C=O. The method may further include the administration of an estrogen lowering drug to enhance efficacy of the compound of the present invention.